

## **II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following is a courtesy copy of the currently pending claims; no revisions have been made via this document:

1. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method for managing a relationship with a venture company, comprising the steps of:

    providing venture information from the venture company pertaining to the venture company;

    entering the venture information into a database having a column-row matrix of records, wherein the venture information is entered on a current date; and

    querying a row of the database to provide a single record of relationship information pertaining to the venture company even if the single record of relationship information is not located in a specified row and column of the database,

    wherein the venture company comprises a new business entity that is seeking a relationship with an existing business entity.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

    providing scoring data based on the venture information; and

    entering the scoring data in the database on the current date.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the venture information comprises a business plan.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the each row of the matrix corresponds to a separate venture company, and wherein each column of the matrix corresponds to a separate time interval.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

    duplicating the single record from a first column of the queried row to a second column of the queried row; and

    assigning an updated current date to the duplicated record.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of generating reports pertaining to the venture company.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of analyzing a relationship opportunity with the venture company with the following steps:

    identifying the relationship opportunity;

    screening the identified opportunity;

    evaluating the screened opportunity to determine whether to enter into a business relationship with the venture company; and

    deploying the business relationship if the opportunity was positively evaluated.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the screening step comprises the step of determining scoring data based on the venture information, and wherein the evaluating step comprises the step of determining whether to enter into the business relationship based on the scoring data.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for managing a relationship with a venture company, comprising the steps of:

providing venture information from the venture company pertaining to the venture company, and providing scoring data based on the venture information;

entering the venture information and scoring data into a database having a column-row matrix of records, wherein the venture information and scoring data are entered on a current date;

querying a row of the database to provide a single record of relationship information pertaining to the venture company even if the single record of relationship information is not located in a specified row and column of the database;

duplicating the single record from a first column of the queried row to a second column of the queried row; and

assigning an updated current date to the duplicated record,  
wherein the venture company comprises a new business entity that is seeking a relationship with an existing business entity.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the venture information comprises a business plan.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the each row of the matrix corresponds to a separate venture company, and wherein each column of the matrix corresponds to a separate time interval.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of analyzing a relationship opportunity with the venture company with the following steps:

identifying the relationship opportunity;

screening the identified opportunity;

evaluating the screened opportunity to determine whether to enter into a business relationship with the venture company; and

deploying the business relationship if the opportunity was positively evaluated.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the screening step comprises the step of determining scoring data based on the venture information, and wherein the evaluating step comprises the step of determining whether to enter into the business relationship based on the scoring data.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for analyzing a relationship opportunity with a venture company comprising the steps of:

identifying a relationship opportunity with a venture company and obtaining venture information from the venture company about the venture company;

logging an identification status in a database;

calculating scoring data based on the venture information;

logging a screening status in the database;

evaluating the scoring data to determine whether to form a business relationship with the venture company;

logging an evaluation status in the database; and

deploying the business relationship if the scoring data was positively evaluated, wherein the venture company comprises a new business entity that is seeking a relationship with an existing business entity.

15. (Previously Presented) A system for managing a relationship with a venture company, comprising:

a process system for analyzing a relationship opportunity with a venture company;

a library system for providing library elements; and

a view system for providing a plurality of views of the process, and the library elements, wherein the venture company comprises a new business entity that is seeking a relationship with an existing business entity.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the process system comprises:

an identification system for providing identification process elements for identifying a relationship opportunity with a venture company;

a screening system for providing screening process elements for screening an identified opportunity;

an evaluation system for providing evaluation process elements for evaluating a screened opportunity to determine whether to enter into a business relationship with the venture company; and

a deployment system for providing deployment process elements for deploying a business relationship for a positively evaluated opportunity.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the library system comprises:

a reference system for providing reference documentation;

a template system for providing templates; and

a screening tool system for providing venture information about the venture company.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, further comprising a database system for managing a relationship information corresponding to the process, wherein the database system comprises:

a database comprising a column-row matrix of records, wherein each row corresponds to a separate venture company and each column corresponds to a separate time interval;

a row query system for querying a row of the matrix to provide a single record of relationship information corresponding to a particular venture company at a predetermined time interval even if the single record of relationship information is not located in a specified row and column of the database;

a duplication system for duplicating a provided single record from a first column of a queried row to a second column of the queried row; and

a dating system for assigning an updated current date to a duplicated record.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the view system further provides a plurality of views of the relationship information.

20. (Original) The database system of claim 18, wherein the relationship information comprises status information.

21. (Previously Presented) A system for managing a relationship with a venture company, comprising:

a process system for analyzing a relationship opportunity with a venture company;

a library system for providing reference documentation, templates, and a screening tool;

a database system for managing relationship information corresponding to the process;

and

a view system for providing a plurality of views of the process, the reference documentation, the templates, the screening tool, and the relationship information, wherein the venture company includes a new business entity that is seeking a relationship with an existing business entity.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the process system comprises:

an identification system for providing identification process elements for identifying a relationship opportunity with a venture company;

a screening system for providing screening process elements for screening an identified opportunity;

an evaluation system for providing evaluation process elements for evaluating a screened opportunity to determine whether to enter into a business relationship with the venture company; and

a deployment system for providing deployment process elements for deploying a business relationship for a positively evaluated opportunity.

23. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the library system comprises:

a reference system for providing reference documentation;

a template system for providing templates; and

a screening tool system for providing venture information about the venture company.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the database system comprises:

a database having a column-row matrix of records, wherein each row corresponds to a separate venture company and each column corresponds to a separate time interval;

a row query system for querying a row of the matrix to provide a single record of relationship information corresponding to a particular venture company at a predetermined time interval even if the single record of relationship information is not located in a specified row and column of the database;

a duplication system for duplicating a provided single record from a first column of a queried row to a second column of the queried row; and

a dating system for assigning an updated current date to a duplicated record.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the relationship information comprises status information.

26. (Previously Presented) A system for managing a relationship with a venture company, comprising:

- a process system for analyzing a relationship opportunity with a venture company;
- a library system for providing reference documentation, templates, and a screening tool;
- a database system for managing relationship information corresponding to the process,

wherein the database system comprises:

- a database having a column-row matrix of records, wherein each row corresponds to a separate venture company, and wherein each column corresponds to a separate time interval;

- a row query system for querying a row of the matrix to provide a single record of relationship information corresponding to a particular venture company at a predetermined time interval even if the single record of relationship information is not located in a specified row and column of the database;

- a duplication system for duplicating a provided single record from a first column of a queried row to a second column of the queried row;

- a dating system for assigning an updated current date to a duplicated record; and
- a view system for providing a plurality of views of the process, the reference

documentation, the templates, the screening tool, and the relationship information, wherein the venture company comprises a new business entity that is seeking a relationship with an existing business entity.

27. (Previously Presented) A database system for managing relationship information corresponding to a process for analyzing a relationship opportunity with a venture company, comprising:

a database having a column-row matrix of records, wherein each row corresponds to a separate venture company, and wherein each column corresponds to a separate time interval; and a row query system for querying a row of the matrix to provide a single record of relationship information corresponding to a particular venture company at a predetermined time interval even if the single record of relationship information is not located in a specified row and column of the database.

28. (Original) The database system of claim 27, further comprising:

a duplication system for duplicating a provided single record from a first column of a queried row to a second column of the queried row; and a dating system for assigning an updated current date to a duplicated record.

29. (Original) The database system of claim 27, wherein the relationship information comprises status information and the venture information.

30. (Previously Presented) A database system for managing relationship information corresponding to a process for analyzing a relationship opportunity with a venture company, comprising:

- a database having a column-row matrix of records, wherein each row corresponds to a separate venture company, and wherein each column corresponds to a separate time interval;
- a row query system for querying a row of the matrix to provide a single record of relationship information corresponding to a particular venture company at a predetermined time interval even if the single record of relationship information is not located in a specified row and column of the database;
- a duplication system for duplicating a provided single record from a first column of a queried row to a second column of the queried row; and
- a dating system for assigning an updated current date to a duplicated record, wherein the venture company comprises a new business entity that is seeking a relationship with an existing business entity.

31. (Original) The database system of claim 30, wherein the relationship information comprises status information and the venture information.

32. (Previously Presented) A program product stored on a recordable medium for managing a relationship with a venture company, comprising:

- a process system for analyzing a relationship opportunity with the venture company;
- a library system for providing reference documentation, templates and a screening tool;

and

a view system for providing a plurality of views of the process, the reference documentation, the templates, and the screening tool,

wherein the venture company comprises a new business entity that is seeking a relationship with an existing business entity.

33. (Original) The program product of claim 32, wherein the process system comprises:

an identification system for providing identification process elements for identifying a relationship opportunity with a venture company;

a screening system for providing screening process elements for screening an identified opportunity;

an evaluation system for providing evaluation process elements for evaluating a screened opportunity to determine whether to enter into a business relationship with the venture company; and

a deployment system for providing deployment process elements for deploying a business relationship for a positively evaluated opportunity.

34. (Original) The program product of claim 32, wherein the library system comprises:

a reference system for providing the reference documentation;

a template system for providing the templates; and

a screening tool system for gathering venture information about the venture company.

35. (Previously Presented) The program product of claim 34, further comprising a database system for managing relationship information pertaining to the process, wherein the database system comprises:

- a database comprising a column-row matrix of records, wherein each row corresponds to a separate venture company and each column corresponds to a separate time interval;
- a row query system for querying a row of the matrix to provide a single record of relationship information corresponding to a particular venture company at a predetermined time interval even if the single record of relationship information is not located in a specified row and column of the database;
- a duplication system for duplicating a provided single record from a first column of a queried row to a second column of the queried row; and
- a dating system for assigning an updated current date to a duplicated record.

### **III. REMARKS**

Claims 1-35 are pending in this application. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly not being enabling. Claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Chandler *et al.* (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0032599 A1), hereafter “Chandler.”

#### **A. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-35 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112**

The Office has asserted that claims 1-35 contains subject matter that is not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art which it pertains or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Specifically, the Office states that it is not clear on the querying step and how it would operate to query the record even through the single record of the relationship information is not located in a specified row or column of the database. Office Action, page 2. However, it appears from its statement that the Office misreads the language of the claim. In particular, the claim reads “*...querying a row* of the database to provide a single record of relationship information pertaining to the venture company even if the single record of relationship information is not located in a specified row *and* column of the

database.” Claim 1, *emphasis added*. To this extent, the language of the claim does not state that neither the row nor the column is known, but rather, that a single record may be obtained when one of the two is unknown. This may be done by querying the row of the database to find a single record, such as the most recent or the closest in time to a specified row/column location. As such, the claimed invention satisfies the enablement requirement. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

#### **B. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-35 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e)**

With regard to the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection over Chandler, Applicants assert that Chandler does not teach each and every feature of the claimed invention. For example, with respect to independent claims 1, 9, 14, 15, 21, 26, 27, 30 and 32, Applicants submit that Chandler fails to teach entering the venture information into a database having a column-row matrix of records. The passage of Chandler cited by the Office teaches that “[t]he program receives the data input and stores the data in a server database (FIG. 1a).” To this extent, Chandler stores data in a database. However, Chandler does not specify any format for the database, much less that the database has a column row matrix of records. In contrast, the claimed invention includes “...entering the venture information into a database having a column-row matrix of records.” Claim 1. As such, the database of the claimed invention is not merely a generic database as in Chandler, but instead has a column-row matrix of records. For the above reasons, the database having a column-row matrix of records of the claimed invention is not taught by the database of Chandler. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw its rejection.

With further respect to independent claims 1, 9, 26, 27 and 30 and with respect to dependent claims 18, 24 and 35, Applicants respectfully submit that Chandler also fails to teach querying a row of the database to provide a single record of relationship information pertaining to the venture company even if the single record of relationship information is not located in a specified row and column of the database. The passage of Chandler cited by the Office teaches:

Another example [of an interactive tool] may include a profile form that the investor completes to use as an electronic search engine that will map and match to potential investment opportunities. Para. 0013, lines 14-17.

To this extent, the profile form of Chandler may be used as a search engine to map and match to potential investment opportunities. However, Chandler does not teach or suggest that its search engine queries a row of a database to provide a single record of relationship information pertaining to the user. Furthermore, the Chandler search engine is not indicated as having the ability to provide the single record even if the row / column location of the record in the database is not specified.

The claimed invention, in contrast, includes "...querying a row of the database to provide a single record of relationship information pertaining to the venture company even if the single record of relationship information is not located in a specified row and column of the database."

Claim 1. As such, the querying of the claimed invention is not merely a generic search engine such as the one in Chandler, but rather provides a single record of relationship information pertaining to the venture company. Furthermore, unlike the results produced by the Chandler search engine, the single record of the claimed invention is produced by querying a row of the database. Still further, the single record of relationship information of the claimed invention is provided even if it is not located in the specified row and column of the database. For the above

reasons, the querying of the claimed invention is not taught by the search engine of Chandler.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

With further respect to independent claims 9, 26 and 30 and with respect to dependent claims 5, 18, 24, 28 and 35, Applicants respectfully submit that Chandler also fails to teach duplicating the single record from a first column of the queried row to a second column of the queried row. Instead, the passage of Chandler cited by the Office merely teaches that data in its database can be accessed and downloaded into a hard copy (i.e. printed), and does not teach that data in its database is duplicated to a second column of the row of the database from which the original came. In contrast, the claimed invention includes "...duplicating the single record from a first column of the queried row to a second column of the queried row." Claim 9. As such, the duplicating of the claimed invention is not merely accessing and printing data as in Chandler, but rather duplicates a single record from a first column of a queried row to a second column of the same queried row in the same database. Thus, the duplicating of the claimed invention is not taught by the accessing and downloading of Chandler. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

With respect to dependent claims 4 and 11, Applicants respectfully submit that Chandler also fails to teach that each row of the matrix corresponds to a separate venture company, and wherein each column of the matrix corresponds to a separate time interval. Instead, the passage of Chandler that the Office equates with matrix rows corresponding to venture companies merely teaches a questionnaire that may be available for viewing. Nowhere, does this passage teach rows of a matrix that correspond to venture companies. Similarly, the Office equates the time interval columns of the matrix with a passage of Chandler that teaches a number of lists on which

ranked companies may be placed. However, nowhere are entries on the list associated with time intervals. In contrast, the claimed invention includes "...the each row of the matrix corresponds to a separate venture company, and wherein each column of the matrix corresponds to a separate time interval." Claim 4. Thus, the non-related questionnaire and lists of Chandler do not teach the database of the claimed invention that has a row column matrix wherein each row of the matrix corresponds to a separate venture company and each column of the matrix corresponds to a separate time interval. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

With regard to the Office's other arguments regarding dependent claims, Applicants herein incorporate the arguments presented above with respect to the independent claims listed above. In addition, Applicants submit that all defendant claims are allowable based on their own distinct features. However, for brevity, Applicants will forego addressing each of these rejections individually, but reserve the right to do so should it become necessary. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw its rejection.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

In addition to the above arguments, Applicants submit that each of the pending claims is patentable for one or more additional unique features. To this extent, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Office's interpretation of the claimed subject matter or the references used in rejecting the claimed subject matter. These features have not been separately addressed herein for brevity. However, Applicants reserve the right to present such arguments in a later response should one be necessary.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Hunter E. Webb  
Reg. No.: 54,593

Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC  
75 State Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, New York 12207  
(518) 449-0044  
(518) 449-0047 (fax)

RAD/hew